

Claims 1-24 were pending prior to this Amendment.

Claims 2, 16, 19 and 22-24 have been canceled.

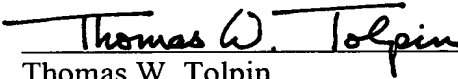
The matters objected to in claims 1-24 have been corrected or canceled as per the Examiner's requests in order to make the claims more definite and clear and better comply with 35 USC 112.

Claims 1, 3-15, 17, 18, and 20-21 are presently pending for the consideration of the Examiner.

Inasmuch as the preceding amendment complies with the Examiner's requests and cures the Examiner's objections, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney in order to expedite this application to allowance, if the preceding does not already place the above-identified application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas W. Tolpin
Registration Number 27,600
Attorney for Applicants

Address:

Welsh & Katz, Ltd.
22nd Floor
120 South Riverside Plaza
Chicago, IL 60606

Phone: (312) 655-1500